Statement-I

The following are the recommendations of the Committee set up to examine the issue of abolition of Octroi :—

(a) The committee recommend partial abolition of octrol. Octroi might be retained in municipal corporations covering a population of three lakhs or more. It could be abolished in the smaller local bodies.

(b) The existing procedure for the collection of octroi might be rationalised and simplified to include a self assessment approach. Payment should be made in banks and financial transactions should be avoided at the check posts. Computerisation and other model techniques might be introduced between the banks and the check posts; the check posts and the municipal headquarters; and the municipal headquarters and the banks. The revised procedure will reduce the number of check-posts, wastage of the time of the transporters, and the corruption, harssament and malpractices at the check-posts;

(c) Octroi should be replaced with taxes the incidence of which will be on the transport sector, in the case of smaller municipalities; e.g. surcharge of sales tax, entry tax, terminal tax, road tax, tax on motor vehicles, etc. If the revenue realised on account of these taxes is inadequate; augmentation of taxes such as property tax, entertainment tax, professional tax, etc. might be considered. Even after the imposition of these taxes if the revenue is still inadequate only then special grants-in-aid should be considered. The Committee strongly recommends that grants-in-aid should not be considered in isolation without augmenting the tax base as this would take away the initiative and autonomy of the local bodies.

(d) The procedure for payment of grants to the municipalities should be revised in so far as it relates to the loss of octroi revenue. It should be paid as a direct advance to the municipalities by the Planning Commission at the time of plan allocation and should be recovered from the revenues due to the State Governments.

(e) The alternative sources of revenue to the local bodies in lieu of octroi should not only yield revenue equivalent to the amount lost as a result of its abolition but should be elastic enough to ensure future revenue for the local bodies. Due regard should be paid to the potential octroi revenue while deciding the quantum of compensation.

Statement-II

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT : They have intimated that they are considering replacement of Octroi with a surcharge on Sales Tax.

JAMMU & KASHMIR GOVERNMENT : They have intimated that they had abolished Octroi in 1987 and set up a State Finance Commission to suggest ways for augmenting the resources of Local Bodies and to devise formula for sharing the resources between the State Government and the Local Bodies. The Commission has submitted its report which is under examination.

HARYANA GOVERNMENT : The State Government is not in a position to abolish the Octroi at this stage.

PONDICHERRY GOVERNMENT : They have intimated that as no alternative source for raising the revenue to compensate the loss once the octroi is abolished has been sighted, it is too premature to think of abolition of octroi.

Development of cities in NCR by State Governments

3704. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State Government has prepared plans for development of cities based on the guidelines approved by the National Capital Region Planning Board and submitted to the Central Government for consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided for shifting some of the Central Government offices to other cities including Gwalior and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the names of towns to which the Central Government offices are proposed to be shifted from Delhi; alongwith the names of Government offices the type of which may be considered for shifting ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) A list of offices which are to be shifted to places outside Delhi as per decision of the Central Government is attached as annexure (*See* below). In suggesting the location to which these offices may be shifted, the requirement of these offices to be near the concerned Ministry was taken into account. There is attached as annexure (*See* below). In to Gwalior as it is not one of the towns within the National Capital Region. The NCR Plan, however, recognises Gwalior as a counter magnet town alongwith Bareily, Hissar, Kota and Patiala.

STATEMENT

List of Offices to be Shifted outside Delhi

Sl. No.	Name of the Office	Where to shift
1.	Coast Guard (Hd. Qrs.)	Ghaziabad
2.	Research & Development Centre, Postal Department.	Ghaziabad
3.	Dte. of Inspection, Northern Inspection Circle, Deptt. of Supply.	Ghaziabad
4.	Publications Division, Films Division, Song and Drama Division and the Dte. of Field Publicity under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.	Ghaziabad
5.	National Crime Records Bureau under Ministry of Home Affairs.	Any DMA town
6.	Deptt. of Light Houses and Light Ships.	NOIDA
7.	Central Institute of Research and Training in Employment Service, Ministry of Labour	NOIDA
8.	Commissioner of Payments of Deptt. of Industrial Development.	Any suitable locationl ike Gurgaon
9.	Department of Publication	Faridabad.
10.	CPWD Training Institute	Ghaziabad.
11.	National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics.	Faridabad.

Presidential orders granting Scheduled Tribes status to certain communities of Ladakh

3705. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which Presidential order granting Scheduled Tribe status to certain communities of Ladakh was issued;

(b) whether a copy of the order will be laid on the Table of the House;

(c) what benefits have accrued to the Ladakhi communities after the grant of Scheduled Tribe status to them;

(d) the measures taken by Central and the State Government authorities for the development of these communities after the order was issued; and

(e) what is the net outcome and also the reaction of the people of Ladakh ?